

**In the Claims:**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

**Listing of Claims:**

1. (currently amended) A color-separating and -recombining optical system comprising:
  - a light-beam separating section having a beam-separating plane to separate an incident light beam having a first light component, a second light component, and a third light component into the first, second, and third light components, respectively;
  - a first polarization beam splitter having a first beam-splitting plane in which the first light component is incident;
  - a second polarization beam splitter having a second beam-splitting plane in which the second and third light components are incident;
  - [[A]] a light-beam recombining section having a beam-recombining plane to recombine the first light component emitted from the first polarization beam splitter and the second and third light components emitted from the second polarization beam splitter, wherein the beam-separating plane, the first and second beam-splitting planes and the beam-recombining plane intersect each other like a character-"X"; and
  - a light blockage provided in the vicinity of an intersection of the beam-separating plane, the first and second beam-splitting planes and the beam-recombining plane, the light blockage preventing light components of the light beam incident in the light-beam separating section from being incident in the light-beam recombining section without being incident in the first or the second polarization beam splitter.
2. (original) The color-separating and -recombining optical system according to claim 1, wherein the light-beam separating section has a first corner and the light-beam recombining section has a second corner, the first and

second corners being cut out to be flat to face each other as the light blockage.

3. (original) The color-separating and -recombining optical system according to claim 1, wherein the first or the second polarization beam splitter is smaller than the light-beam recombining section, the light blockage being provided between the light-beam recombining section and the first or the second polarization beam splitter.
4. (original) The color-separating and -recombining optical system according to claim 1, wherein the first or the second polarization beam splitter is smaller than the light-beam recombining section, the light blockage being provided in an optical component provided between the light-beam recombining section and the first or the second polarization beam splitter.
5. (currently amended) ~~[[The]]~~ A color-separating and -recombining optical system comprising:
  - a light-beam separating section having a beam-separating plane to separate an incident light beam having a first light component, a second light component, and a third light component into the first, second, and third light components, respectively;
  - a first polarization beam splitter having a first beam-splitting plane in which the first light component is incident;
  - a second polarization beam splitter having a second beam-splitting plane in which the second and third light components are incident;
  - a light-beam recombining section having a beam-recombining plane to recombine the first light component emitted from the first polarization beam splitter and the second and third light components emitted from the second polarization beam splitter, wherein the beam-separating plane, the first and second beam-splitting planes and the beam-recombining plane intersect each other like a character-"X"; and

a light blockage provided in the vicinity of a joint portion of the light-beam recombining section and the first or the second polarization beam splitter, the light blockage preventing light components of the light beam incident in the light-beam separating section from being incident in the light-beam recombining section without being incident in the first or the second polarization beam splitter.

6. (original) A projection display comprising:

a light-beam separating section having a beam-separating plane to separate an incident light beam having a first light component, a second light component, and a third light component into the first, second, and third light components, respectively;

a first polarization beam splitter having a first beam-splitting plane in which the first light component is incident;

a second polarization beam splitter having a second beam-splitting plane in which the second and third light components are incident;

a light-beam recombining section having a beam-recombining plane to recombine the first light component emitted from the first polarization beam splitter and the second and third light components emitted from the second polarization beam splitter, wherein the beam-separating plane, the first and second beam-splitting planes and the beam-recombining plane intersect each other like a character-"X"; and

a light blockage provided in the vicinity of an intersection of the beam-separating plane, the first and second beam-splitting planes and the beam-recombining plane, the light blockage preventing light components of the light beam incident in the light-beam separating section from being incident in the light-beam recombining section without being incident in the first or the second polarization beam splitter.

7. (original) A projection display comprising:

a light-beam separating section having a beam-separating plane to separate an incident light beam having a first light component, a

second light component, and a third light component into the first, second, and third light components, respectively;

a first polarization beam splitter having a first beam-splitting plane in which the first light component is incident;

a second polarization beam splitter having a second beam-splitting plane in which the second and third light components are incident;

a light-beam recombining section having a beam-recombining plane to recombine the first light component emitted from the first polarization beam splitter and the second and third light components emitted from the second polarization beam splitter, wherein the beam-separating plane, the first and second beam-splitting planes and the beam-recombining plane intersect each other like a character-"X"; and

a light blockage provided in the vicinity of a joint portion of the light-beam recombining section and the first or the second polarization beam splitter, the light blockage preventing light components of the light beam incident in the light-beam separating section from being incident in the light-beam recombining section without being incident in the first or the second polarization beam splitter.